SYNOPSIS OF THE THESIS

TITLE OF THE THESIS

COLLECTION MANAGEMENT OF E- INFROMATION RESOURCES: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF SELECTED UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN ANDHRA PRADESH

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1. INTRODUCTION

Library collection management has changed dramatically in the past decade. The wide spread use of new technology in the publication of information through the Internet and WWW meant that libraries must begin to develop web based information collections. This created a massive shift in the generation of information, its publication and dissemination of electronic information.

Gradually the concept of library has changed very fast due to the impact of information communication technologies. Libraries not only possesed printed collection but also possesed digital collections. They have moved from print based environment to electronic environment. As the information environment changed rapidly there is wide spread availability of electronic resources in libraries. Electronic publishing has almost replaced print on paper publication. It offered an alternative medium for readers. Dissemination of information at low cost and high speed that could not be obtained through paper has been achieved through electronic means. This resulted in the emergence of consortia that enabled libraries to have electronic access to professional literature included research journals, abstracts, review publications data bases in science and technology, social sciences and humanities. Online access to data bases enabled user to retrieve relevant and latest information with minimum time.

The different electronic formats that communicate information are OPAC'S online data bases, web databases, e-books, e-journals/ magazines, e-thesis and dissertations, e-reference sources, e-learning materials, e-research reports and e-newspapers. Thus electronic resources have become the vital part of university library collection in 21st century.

2. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

This thesis has been organized into six chapters.

Chapter I Forms the introduction of the thesis and presents the impact and proliferating types of electronic resources in library collections. An overview on changing dimensions in the organizational functions of collection management due to electronic resources in the digital environment has been presented. It further mentions the need for the study,

statement of the problem, scope of the study, operational definitions of basic terms used in the study and research design.

Chapter II Covers the review of earlier studies conducted on collection management in academic university libraries have been dealt.

Chapter III A brief description about the selected universities and a detailed profile of the concerned university libraries is described.

Chapter IV The data obtained, on electronic resources management from the six university librarians is analyzed and summarized.

Chapter V The data gathered on user survey on the use of both print and electronic collections and services are analyzed, draws observations and the results are presented.

Chapter VI Suggested suitable suggestions for enhancing the collection management of electronic information resources along with print information sources. Conclusions have been drawn on the basis of analysis. Areas of further research have also been suggested.

3. NEED FOR THE STUDY

In order to keep up with the current needs of the users, university libraries must now include electronic information resources in their collections, purchase and maintain the necessary hardware and software to make those resources available in the library. Stress is laid on the importance of managing this change by focusing on collection management.

In this context collection management has to incorporate new challenges in the collection development policies, planning, selection, budget and acquisition, organization and access, evaluation and assessment, copyright and licensing and their preservation with regard to various electronic resources. This study is aimed to explore and understand the emerging shift in building electronic collection development plan for web based resources in the present academic university libraries. This study is a probe into this specialized area of library collection management function. It concentrates on the major steps, processes and issues to be confronted in dealing with the incorporation of electronic resources into an academic library collection. It is

important to understand and develop sound theoretical and operational knowledge about collection management of e-resources. Therefore there is a necessity to study on the different aspects of e-resources and the issues relating to the use of e-resources by users, more particularly by faculty and research scholars. This study will certainly bridge the gap in existing studies and further make understanding deeper on the subject of collection management of electronic information resources. The details of the study are described here under.

4. OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives related to the present study are as follows:

- To probe into the changing dimensions of collection management practices with focus on electronic information resources.
- To evaluate the existing system of collection management practices with reference to print and electronic information resources.
- To explore, identify, access and analyze the specific factors that promotes or hinders the contemporary use of electronic information resources by faculty and research scholars.
- To find out faculty and research scholar's view point on the adequacy of print and electronic resource collection of their university libraries.
- To suggest measures for the improvement and management of existing library system for the effective building of collections particularly in the use of e-resources in the present electronic environment.

5. HYPOTHESIS

The study was carried out based on the following hypotheses:

Hypothesis 1: All university libraries have a collection development policy that is revised keeping in view the electronic resources.

Hypothesis 2: The university libraries are striking balance between print and electronic resources, specifically the periodicals.

Hypothesis 3: The libraries opt for consortial subscription of e-journals owing to its economic value. The consortia are well structured and libraries do not have any problem.

Hypothesis 4: The faculty and research scholars of universities under study are familiar with e-resources and prefer to use them for research, publication and teaching in that order.

Hypothesis 5: The user community prefers e-journals over other e-resources and prefers them for their currency and easy access.

Hypothesis 6: The users always retrieve relevant information from consortia based e-journals and are satisfied with available consortium.

6. SCOPE

As on 2010 there are 32 state universities 3 central universities and 7 deemed universities. For this study only university libraries of Andhra Pradesh are taken into consideration. Further each university specialized in the field of Agriculture, Health Sciences, Law; Technology, a State and a Central University that offer conventional courses are taken into consideration. It is a heterogeneous sample. The present study has been carried out taking a sample of the following six university libraries arranged chronologically according to their year of establishment.

1. Dr V.S. Krishna library, Andhra University Visakhapatnam.
2. ANGRAU Central library, Acharya. N. G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad.
3. University library, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad.
4. Indira Gandhi Memorial library, University Of Hyderabad.
5. Dr NTR UHS library, Dr. NTR University of Health sciences, Vijayawada.
6. NALSAR library, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad.

The study has been confined to the above six universities located in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The librarian survey is administered to the concerned university librarians in these university libraries. The user survey has been carried out among the faculty and full time research scholars from university libraries under study. The survey seeks to identify the ‘access provision’, ’selection’, ‘organization’ and ‘use’ of both electronic and print information resources in these libraries.

7. METHODOLOGY

Survey method has been followed to collect data owing to its inherent advantages with questionnaire as the main tool of data collection. Questionnaire was administered to all the librarians of the six universities. In addition a separate questionnaire was devised for the faculty and research scholar users of these university libraries. The investigator made personal visits to the six university libraries to distribute the questionnaires and to observe the prevailing conditions under which the above mentioned libraries carried out its role and responsibilities.

The data thus collected from the librarians, faculty and research scholars has been analyzed using computer and presented in suitable tabular forms for each facet on which the information was solicited and conclusions were drawn from them. In some important aspects of the data cross comparisons have been made on the standard and practices of collection management.

8. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- Both the conventional universities have well framed CDP statements, that are implemented but revision has not been taken up regularly whereas amongst specialized university libraries ANGRAU Central library and NALSAR library have CDP that is not revised and updated to include e-resource collection while University library, JNTUH and Dr NTR UHS library, do not have CDP. None of the university libraries have a comprehensive collection management policy addressing e-resource collection.
- Findings on strength of library collection reveal that conventional universities offer a number of courses and that may be the reason to have more books and periodicals than specialized universities. The later being specialized deemed to have books and journals primarily limited to the core subject.
- Findings on number of services offered by libraries reveal that reference and reprographic are the main services offered manually by both conventional and specialized university libraries. Secondly both the conventional and specialized university libraries have not ventured to make maximum use of latest online web technologies to provide services to their users. Despite users demand for

strengthening web-based services the study disclosed that only certain services have been implemented through online mode by these libraries.

- Findings on ranking use of different types of e-resources reveal that 37.60% of faculty and 57.10% of research scholars ranked e-journals/ magazines as first preference.
- Findings on adequacy of library collection by faculty from different disciplines expressed book collection, reference book collection, current journal collection, back volume journal collection, research reports, conference proceedings, government publications, research monographs, thesis/ dissertations and abstracting /indexing databases as good whereas patents /standards and non book materials are not satisfactory but majority of research scholars from different disciplines expressed varying levels of satisfaction about their library collection.

- Findings on improvement in library collection by faculty reveals that e-books have been given first priority, followed by printed books, printed journals, e-journals as second priority and thesis & dissertations, e-thesis & dissertations as third priority but research scholars from different disciplines preferred improvement in printed books, followed by printed journals, e-journals and thesis & dissertation, e-thesis & dissertations and e-databases.

9. SUGGESTIONS

Based on the findings, suggestions in the following areas may be considered for the improvement of collection management system in different types of university libraries. The suggestions are applicable to any university library in India, in general, that will increase the utility of e-resources by faculty and research scholars.

1. The University libraries have to redefine their collection management policy giving focus to electronic resources. The policy has to define the ratio between print and electronic material striking a balance between the two.
2. Creation of a separate electronic resource management section/ department may be considered as it is a complex process with puzzled licensing agreements.
3. Half of the respondents stated that they do not need training and sizable percentage from some libraries under study indicated low level of satisfaction of library collections and

services. This reflects the user's perspective on library and library staff. The libraries have to take initiatives to install confidence and trust among users that library staff is knowledgeable and approachable to get the required information.

10. CONCLUSIONS

E-information resources along with print resources have become an integral part of library collection. Library collection management has changed dramatically in the past decade. The widespread use of new technology and the publication of information on and through the internet and the World Wide Web meant that university libraries must begin to develop web based information collections.

At present university libraries may get along by incorporating electronic collections with print collections but in the long run it would pose a major problem to university library management. The study indicates that there is a need for university libraries to update and augment the existing collections both in print and in electronic format. The survey reveals that faculty and research scholars are aware of e-information resources availability through consortia. Most of the faculty largely used e-resources for their research work followed by teaching and publication whereas research scholars opined to use e-resources for research as first priority followed by self improvement and participation in seminars and / workshops as second preference. The study indicated that faculty and research scholars are heavily dependent on e-journals as their first priority, followed by printed books, printed journals, e-books as second priority and thesis & dissertations, e-thesis & dissertations as third priority. The findings highlight the importance of balanced collection management of e-information resources in the digital environment. Hence there is a need for a proper collection development policy to restructure the entire process of information acquisition especially with e-resources for the benefit of user community.